

Cease-fire deal takes effect

Gazans trek toward wrecked homes as Israeli forces begin to retreat

Iran voices support for initiatives aimed at ending genocide

International Desk

A cease-fire between Israel and Hamas came into effect in Gaza on Friday after the two sides agreed a plan, proposed by US President Donald Trump, to end more than two years of devastating war on the Palestinian territory. Israeli forces declared the cease-fire and withdrew from some positions in Gaza as thousands of displaced Palestinians began to stream back home and the families of captives held in Gaza awaited news. The Israeli occupation army said that its troops had ceased fire at noon (0900 GMT) "in preparation for the cease-fire agreement and the return of hostages." The cease-fire marks a key step toward ending a ruinous two-year war that has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians, reduced much of Gaza to rubble, destabilized the Middle East, and left dozens of Israeli captives, living and dead, in the territory. Iran's Foreign Ministry in a statement reaffirmed Iran's support for any initiative aimed at ending the genocidal war in Gaza, ensuring the withdrawal of occupying forces, facilitating the entry of humanitarian aid, freeing Palestinian prisoners, and restoring the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people.

It also warned the international community to remain vigilant against the "deception and breach of commitments" by the Israeli regime. Meanwhile, large crowds in Tehran and other cities across Iran held pro-Palestine rallies on Friday, expressing solidarity with Gaza and urging immediate delivery of humanitarian aid to the besieged territory. Organizers described the events as a show of unity with Palestinians and opposition to global powers who have supported the Israeli regime during its genocidal war on Gaza.

Israel begins pullback

Gaza's civil defense agency said Israeli troops and armored vehicles were pulling back from forward positions in both Gaza City and Khan Yunis, and displaced Palestinian civilians said they hoped to return home. Thousands of civilians were walking along a raised route on Gaza's waterfront, as displaced Palestinians sought to return home after two years of intense fighting. "We're going back to our areas, full of wounds and sorrow, but we thank God for this situation," 32-year-old Ameer Abu Lyadeh said in Khan Yunis. "God willing, everyone will return to their areas. We're happy — even if we return to ruins with

no life, at least it's our land."

Israel had previously said all parties had signed the first phase of the agreement this week in Egypt, adding that Hamas freeing its remaining Israeli captives alive and dead would "bring the end to this war."

An Israeli security official, speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the withdrawal, said the military would control around 50% of Gaza in their new positions. The agreement followed a 20-point peace plan announced last month by the US president, who plans to leave on Sunday for the Middle East.

Egypt is planning an event to celebrate the conclusion of the deal, while the families of 47 captives taken during Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack are waiting for their loved ones' return.

Unresolved issues

Despite celebrations in Israel and Gaza and a flood of congratulatory messages from world leaders, many issues remain unresolved, including Hamas's disarmament and a proposed transitional authority for Gaza led by Trump. Senior Hamas official Osama Hamdan told Qatar-based broadcaster Al Araby the Palestinian movement rejects the idea. Trump said the issue of Hamas surrendering



Iranians participate in a pro-Palestinian rally in Tehran on October 10, 2025.
● IQNA

its weapons would be addressed in the second phase of the peace plan.

"There will be disarming," he told reporters, adding there would also be "pullbacks" by Israeli forces.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insisted in a televised statement Friday that the

next stages would see Hamas disarm and Gaza demilitarized.

Long columns of Palestinians, exhausted by two years of intense bombardment and what the UN warned were famine conditions, began a trek back from Khan Yunis in the south towards their shattered homes further north.

'Utterly outrageous': Russia raps reimposition of UN sanctions on Iran

International Desk

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov denounced the Western countries' move to reimpose sanctions on Iran as "utterly outrageous," saying, "They punished a country that had not violated a thing." In an interview with RT, the Russian top diplomat said, "The idea of re-imposing the sanctions which the West is trying to present as a legitimate legal procedure is utterly outrageous." On September 19, the 15-member Security Council failed to adopt a resolution that would have prevented the re-imposition of UN sanctions on Iran after the three European parties to the 2015 nuclear deal — France, Germany and Britain — triggered the "snapback" mechanism and accused Tehran of failing to comply with the agreement known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The United States unilaterally abandoned the deal in 2018, and Europe failed to deliver on its commitments. Iran gradually reduced its obligations, while Western powers escalated pressure. In August, the European trio invoked the snapback mechanism to restore sanctions, a move Iran rejected as illegitimate. The sanctions will again freeze Iranian assets abroad, halt arms deals with the Islamic Republic and target the country's defensive missile program. Lavrov argued that Iran had consistently shown restraint and flexibility, even after the US withdrawal from the nuclear agreement.

"As you may recall, the resolution approving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran's nuclear program was not violated by Iran. The Islamic Republic had been fulfilling it since 2015 when it was first adopted. Then, in 2018, the United States said it did not like the deal and would no longer comply with it." Lavrov noted that European powers have been siding with Washington rather than defending their own agreement. "The Europeans, who were also obliged to fulfill the 'fruit of their own labor,' instead of taking a principled stand in favor of preserving the deal, chose to play along with Washington, persuading the Iranians not to take offence and to make more concessions," he said.

Snapback mechanism

The Russian minister described the snapback mechanism as a tool designed to benefit those seeking to punish Iran regardless of its compliance. "They punished a country that had not violated a thing and had been fulfilling its obligations until the West walked away from the deal," he said. Lavrov also said the West has been deliberately blocking dialogue. "The West, however, is deliberately going to great lengths to prevent direct talks between Iran and the United States (although Tehran has always been open to them) and to block the resumption of normal cooperation between Iran and the IAEA, as if making a special effort to provoke a major conflict. Perhaps, that is exactly what some parties are looking for," he said.



Sergei Lavrov
● RT

The broader context has only deepened Iran's mistrust as in June, the United States and Israel carried out attacks on Iranian peaceful nuclear facilities in a blatant violation of international law. Tehran responded by halting cooperation with the IAEA, citing the agency's failure to act against the aggression. Later, Iran signed a new cooperation framework with the IAEA in Cairo, but officials warned it would not be implemented if sanctions were reimposed. Russia and China attempted to salvage diplomacy at the UN Security Council in September, but their proposal failed. Days later, Washington and its allies declared sanctions restored. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) at the United Nations in a statement also reacted to the issues concerning Iran's nuclear deal, saying that it necessary for the definitive end of the provisions of Resolution 2231, which endorsed the JCPOA, to occur on schedule. Recalling the importance of the spirit of cooperation and multilateralism that led to the adoption of Resolution 2231, NAM emphasized that all provisions of Resolution 2231 must end as scheduled.

Tehran decries 'destabilizing activities' in Caribbean

Venezuela urges UNSC emergency session over US actions

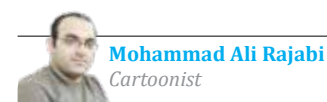
International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry in a statement on Friday condemned the US destabilizing activities in the Caribbean and Latin American regions, describing them as a "clear violation" of the principles of the United Nations Charter and fundamental rules of international law. The statement came after a series of US strikes on boats in the Caribbean, including at least three originating from Venezuela, that have killed more than 20 people since September. Esmail Baqaei, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, slammed the US military actions as "provocative and destabilizing," warning against the repercussions of Washington's "increased acts of lawlessness and aggressive unilateralism" on global peace and stability. He condemned the US military attacks on fishing boats in the region and the threat of resorting to force against Venezuela's national sovereignty and territorial integrity. Such actions are a "clear violation" of the principles of the United Nations Charter and fundamental rules of international law, he added.



Esmail Baqaei
● TASNIM

According to the statement, the Iranian spokesperson called on the Security Council and the UN chief to immediately heed the "dangerous" situation arising from the "US insistence on illegal intervention in the internal affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela as an independent member state of the United Nations." In a letter to the UN Security Council on Thursday, Venezuela's government requested an emergency session focused on the US military actions in recent weeks in the waters off the South American country. So far, the US military has carried out four deadly strikes in the Caribbean since it increased its maritime forces for what President Donald Trump has declared an "armed conflict" with drug cartels.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



European troika says will seek to restart nuclear talks with Iran, US

Britain, France and Germany will seek to restart stalled nuclear talks with Iran and the United States, the three European countries said in a joint statement on Friday. "We are determined to reinstitute negotiations with Iran and the United States towards a comprehensive, durable and verifiable agreement that ensures Iran never acquires a nuclear weapon," they said. The three European countries activated a so-called "snapback" mechanism of the 2015 nuclear agreement with

Iran — a move that triggered the re-imposition of sanctions against Iran in September. Since then, relations between Tehran and the three countries have hit a new low. On September 9, Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reached an agreement aimed at paving the way for the resumption of cooperation which had been suspended following the unprovoked Israeli-American attacks against key Iranian nuclear facilities in June.

The agreement with the IAEA was signed as a goodwill gesture by Iran to prevent the activation of the snapback mechanism. Despite Iran's efforts to prevent the European move, the three countries invoked the mechanism which paved the way for the reimposition of international sanctions that had been removed under the 2015 nuclear agreement. Iran has rejected the reimposition of sanctions as "entirely unfounded, unlawful, and invalid" claims by the United States and the European countries.